

President's Report 2007

The past 12 months have emphasised the Commerce Alumni's primary challenge; capturing the precious time of our committee members to organise events and activities.

At the beginning of the year, the Committee planned what we believed was a realistic program for the year. 11 months down the track, we have struggled to accomplish half of the activities on that program. While one could argue this is a reflection on the committee's interest and enthusiasm, I believe it reflects the busy work and social lives of our Committee Members and Alumni. Even getting the committee together for a meeting has been a challenging task.

Our elected President, Stephanie Glue, received the opportunity to head overseas in June to accept a project management role. Vice President Vicki Kuok also resigned to undertake further study. With no one else willing to take on the role, I offered to act as President for the rest of the year.

The highlights for the year have been the Sea and Vines Winery Tour on the June long weekend, and the dinners with Tracy Marsh and Christie Anthoney. More than 40 people joined the Winery Tour which included a breakfast and three winery visits in the McLaren Vale. The day was enjoyed by everyone, due in no small part to Breanna Slattery who did a fantastic job in organising and running the event.

In June, Alison Harris hosted a dinner for 14 people at the Cooper's Ale House. The special guest for the evening was publisher Tracy Marsh. Tracy explained how she turned a business idea into a million dollar publishing business. I would like to thank Alison for her efforts in organising and hosting what was an enjoyable evening.

In September I also hosted a dinner for Christie Anthoney, Director of the Adelaide Fringe, at the Tap Inn. Christie's personal story and enthusiasm captured everyone's imagination, and no doubt inspired everyone to see more acts at next year's Fringe.

I would like to thank the Committee for their contribution and support over the past 12 months; it has been appreciated. In particular, I would like to thank Cheryl Wenham, Andrew Dolley, George Georgiadis and Alison Harris who are retiring from the Committee. Cheryl and Andrew have both been on the Committee for 4 years, and were both Vice-Presidents in 2005. They have each made a significant contribution in organising and supporting a broad range of events we have held during that period. Cheryl hosted the Gail Fuller (Rising Sun Pictures) Cocktail Party in 2005, was the tireless editor of the newsletter 2004 and more recently responsible for managing our MySpace site. Andrew has organised the Marketing Rules Student Event (2004), the Corquet BBQ (2005) and has been a great behind the scenes support for the dinners. George has been involved for a couple of years, initially as the Commerce Students Association President in 2005, and then as a Vice President this year. His knowledge and connections with the student groups and recent graduates has been most helpful. Alison joined the committee this year, and did a great job organising the Tracy Marsh dinner in June. The contribution of each of you has been appreciated and we look forward to your continued involvement in the future.

Looking to 2008, the challenges are two fold. Initially, time and effort should be focused on building up an enthusiastic committee who do have the time and energy to devote to our activities. This should include targeting more recent graduates who may have more time available.

Beyond this, the committee should focus on hosting a couple unique and exciting events to inspire broader interest in the Commerce Alumni and its activities, while continuing with the dinners which have been very effective.

I wish the new committee well in their endeavours, and look forward to 2008 with excitement and anticipation.

Alex Brown
Acting President
November 2007